

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing Of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** An ink jet printing apparatus having carriage scanning means for moving and scanning a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, print medium feeding means for feeding one of a plurality of stacked print media, and print medium conveying means for conveying said print medium fed by said print medium feeding means to a position where printing can be carried out using said print head, the apparatus comprising:

control means for, before printing to the print medium which has not been printed yet, causing said print medium feeding means and said print medium conveying means to perform a print medium feeding and conveying operation in which said print medium is conveyed continuously while shifting said print medium from said print medium feeding means to said print medium conveying means and causing in parallel, performance of a preliminary ejecting operation during a part of the period of the performance of the print medium feeding and conveying operation,

wherein there is an overlapping period in which said print medium feeding means and said print medium conveying means are driven simultaneously, and said control means controls such that said preliminary ejecting operation is not performed in the overlapping period.

**Claim 2 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preliminary ejecting operation is performed concurrently with said operation

performed by said print medium conveying means to convey said print medium the position where printing can be carried out using said print head, said conveying operation being included in said print medium feeding and conveying operation.

**Claim 3 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preliminary ejecting operation includes

a step of allowing said carriage scanning means to move said carriage to a position where said print head can carry out preliminary ejection,

a step of allowing said print head to carry out preliminary ejection, and

a step of allowing said carriage scanning means to move said carriage to a position where said print head can execute printing on said print medium.

**Claim 4 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ink jet printing apparatus has

a first driving source that electrically drives said carriage scanning means,

a second driving source that electrically drives said print medium feeding means,  
and

a third driving source that electrically drives said print medium conveying means,  
and

not all of said three driving sources are simultaneously driven.

**Claim 5 (currently amended):** A control method of an ink jet printing apparatus having carriage scanning means for moving and scanning a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, print medium feeding means for feeding one of a

plurality of stacked print media, and print medium conveying means for conveying said print medium fed by said print medium feeding means to a position where printing can be carried out using said print head, the control method comprising:

a step of controlling, before printing to the print medium which has not been printed yet, for causing said print medium feeding means and said print medium conveying means to perform a print medium feeding and conveying operation in which said print medium is conveyed continuously while shifting said print medium from said print medium feeding means to said print medium conveying means, and causing in parallel, performance of a preliminary ejecting operation during a part of the period of the performance of the print medium feeding and conveying operation;

wherein there is an overlapping period in which said print medium feeding means and said print medium conveying means are driven simultaneously, and said controlling step controls such that said preliminary ejecting operation is not performed in the overlapping period.

**Claim 6 (previously presented):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means controls such that said preliminary ejecting operation is started after said driving of said print medium feeding means has completed.

**Claim 7 (previously presented):** An ink jet printing apparatus having carriage scanning means for moving and scanning a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, feeding means for feeding one of a plurality of stacked print media, and conveying means for conveying said print medium fed by said feeding means to a

position where printing can be carried out using said print head, the apparatus comprising:

control means for controlling a preliminary ejecting operation to be performed after a print medium feeding operation by said feeding means has completed, for controlling a print medium conveying operation by said conveying means to be started at the timing at which the print medium is fed to a predetermined position before said print medium feeding operation has completed, and for controlling a printing operation using said print head to be started after said print medium conveying operation and said preliminary ejecting operation have completed,

wherein between the timing at which the print medium is fed to said predetermined position and a timing at which said print medium feeding operation is completed, said print medium feeding operation and said print medium conveying operation are performed in parallel with each other, and after said print medium feeding operation is completed, said print medium conveying operation and said preliminary ejecting operation are performed in parallel with each other.